

## Phase 2: Local Area Plan Report Form

**To be completed by the Local Planning Area Facilitators.**

E-mail completed report to the Office of Pastoral Planning: [eneu@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:eneu@richmonddiocese.org) by **May 31, 2008**.

A copy of this form can be downloaded from the Diocesan website

[www.richmonddiocese.org/PlanningGuidelines.pdf](http://www.richmonddiocese.org/PlanningGuidelines.pdf)

1. Local Planning Area: 14
2. Name of person completing this report: Sue Ellerbrock  
Phone # and e-mail address: 540-239-9533, [oreoangel@yahoo.com](mailto:oreoangel@yahoo.com)
3. Describe staffing allocation changes to accommodate the reduction or increase of active priests for your local planning area in the next 5 years. Include the names of parishes that will be clustered and the model selected (reference a model included under "Cluster Models" page 29 or describe a model that your Local Planning Committee developed).
  - 1 priest for Our Lady of Nazareth, Roanoke
  - 1 priest for St. Andrew's, Roanoke
  - 1 priest for Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Salem, with Roanoke College students attending Mass at OLPH, and St. John the Evangelist, New Castle
  - 1 priest for St. Gerard, Roanoke and Francis of Assisi, Rocky Mount
  - 1 priest for Church of the Transfiguration, Fincastle; St. Joseph, Clifton Forge; Sacred Heart, Covington; and The Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Hot Springs
  - 1 priest for St. Joseph, Woodlawn; All Saints, Floyd; and Risen Lord, Patrick Springs
4. Describe other changes that are needed to support the staffing changes proposed.
  - Roanoke College students would need to be bussed to a Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help.
  - The Northern Cluster in our LPA (Transfiguration, St. Joseph, Sacred Heart and the Shrine) is assuming that a retired priest will always be available to staff the Shrine of the Sacred Heart. If not, the Mass will not be said there on a regular basis.
5. Describe other recommendations that will help parishes in your Local Planning Area provide better services and ministries through inter-parish collaboration.
  - Creating a Roanoke Valley Ministry Center/Mega Parish at the Our Lady of Nazareth site to service and minister to all Catholics of the Roanoke Valley and other LPA 14 parishes outside of the valley.
  - Having Diocesan Regional Districts conform to the LPA districts and readjusting Vicariate lines to conform to LPA lines.
  - Creating a LPA Stewardship Committee that will oversee:
    - A "Time and Talent Bank" that would be a resource of personnel and talent for the LPA;

- Creation of a LPA “Financial Bank” that all parishes of the LPA would contribute to in order to assist smaller parishes in need or to support ministries and schools in need. Money contributed into this bank would be exempt from Cathedraticum.
6. If your Local Planning Committee did not reach consensus on these recommendations, please describe how closer your group is to consensus and explain the minority position and/or points of disagreement.

Although our LPA did reach consensus, we have several opinions expressed by individuals who felt that the following comments need to be noted in the final report:

- The representatives from Francis of Assisi in Rocky Mount feel strongly that they should be clustered with Resurrection parish in Moneta.
- Fr. Charles Brickner (All Saints, Floyd; Risen Lord, Patrick Springs; Saint Joseph, Woodlawn) wrote the following statement: “...in our original input to the LPA process, we attempted to point out the inappropriateness of this existing cluster (which has been in existence for more than thirty years) because of distance, geography (on vs. off mountain), culture and normal shopping and recreational center patterns. How this existing cluster alignment ever came into being under a previous pastor and diocesan administration is beyond our comprehension.

It is the position of the members of all three parishes in this cluster that the appropriate LPA alignment should be as follows:

- St. Joseph, Woodlawn should be in the LPA with St. Mary, Wytheville;
  - All Saints, Floyd should be in the LPA with Holy Spirit, Christiansburg;
  - Risen Lord, Patrick Springs should be in the LPA with St. Joseph, Martinsville.”
- Father John McGinnity (Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Hot Springs) wrote the following: “...What is often overlooked is the number of Catholic visitors who visit The Homestead and who own second homes in Bath County. We have a custom of sending Christmas Cards every year to all families who make their names known to us, either by check or on the pew envelopes. We order 800 cards (all preprinted in my personal handwriting) each year, and we usually have less than 50 left over. When spouses and children are included in 800 households, it adds up to about 1600 visitors to the church over a year. We distributed 355 Holy Communions at Christmas (three Masses) and 420 Holy Communions at Easter (four Masses). The church only has seating for 100, so on these Feasts we place folding chairs in the isles and at the rear of the church. The smallest Sunday collection we had in the last financial year was \$1,350.00. The largest was Easter at \$4,590.00. Our total yearly collections over the past five years average \$75,000.00. At this time, we have \$87,000.00 in savings. So, the 26-28 worn-out old Catholics need and get great support from our guests. The Mass times of 5:00 p.m. on Saturday evening and 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning are ideal for guests. On Saturday evening they dress for Mass and are ready for dinner at 6:30 p.m. On Sunday morning they have breakfast early, check out before attending Mass and are on their way home. Our 28 parishioners are very proud of our mission to visitors and the visitors show their appreciation. Weddings ??? So far, this year, we have had three, with another seven remaining in 2008. Some of these are held in

the Ballroom of The Homestead, because the guest list is in the hundreds. So, at least for the moment, there is a need for a full time weekend priest.

We had hoped that this year's comprehensive strategic planning process would be an appropriate time to review and assess the current alignment of parish clusters to maximize the delivery of liturgical services in a time of limited pastoral resources."

- St. John the Evangelist, New Castle, feels strongly that they should continue their current clustering arrangement with the Church of the Transfiguration in Fincastle because of the financial and administrative support they receive from them. St. John's is open to clustering with Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Salem if the following needs can be addressed: financial support; administrative support; an assigned Deacon for SCAP's in emergency situations like Ash Wednesday and Good Friday; and one Mass on Sunday morning.
  - Fr. Rene Castillo had the following opinions:
    - St. Gerard has 3 liturgies on a weekend. Francis of Assisi has 2 Sunday morning Masses. If the priest will be limited to 3 Sunday Masses, the Sunday evening Mass will have to be moved to another parish in the Roanoke Valley (for example, OLPH). Since the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mass is vital to St. Gerard's financial position, it was recommended that the collection from the Sunday evening Mass be used to support St. Gerard.
    - One of the liturgies of St.. Francis of Assisi would need to be moved to Saturday evening.
    - St. Gerard's worship space cannot accommodate the growing number of Hispanics who worship there. It was recommended that St. Andrew be used as the worship site for the Spanish Mass. The priest at St. Gerard will preside at that Mass.
7. Please include any other information that will assist the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Commission in evaluating your Local Plan (i.e. support by parish leadership, special challenges, etc.).
- Fincastle is a growing area, with Transfiguration as a growing community;
  - The region of Rocky Mount is growing, including the Latino population, and the parish is in need of administrative support;
  - St. Gerard in Roanoke is a very complex community made up of three parishes in one, with diverse cultures worshipping together;
  - St. John the Evangelist in New Castle will need financial and administrative support from other sources.

# Map Showing Inter-Parish Collaboration for LPA 14

